

COLLOQUY

SUSAN THORPE replies to Anil's Nautonyms query (November issue p. 265) regarding the pronunciation of her words KICKY, LILY, NINNY, PIPPY, SISSY and TITTY (August issue p. 172). They are correct, being phonetic tautonyms according to the Oxford English Dictionary's phonetics.

ANIL writes:

"Congrats on an especially good issue for November. I most liked the two "celebrity" articles, by Scott Morris and Will Shortz, and the articles by Morgan and Miller. Also enjoyable were the Corstius obit (though not enjoyable that this great logologist is lost to us!), Kickshaws (as usual), your back cover puzzle (to which I found a different solution from yours) and the Mancuso and Grant. But your crossword and the Kahan quiz (for a change) were too hard for my feeble brain. Jacobs' "d>c I" puzzle scooped an idea I've been working on! Also of some interest were the Canty (two or three of whose palindromes were exceptionally good), Hauptman and Puder."

TRISTAN MILLER emailed:

"While browsing through the back issues of Word Ways I chanced upon Ralph G. Beaman's contribution to the February 1992 Colloquy. Ralph had sent in a clipping from the Wall Street Journal about the Só:lō tribe of British Columbia, and was fascinated by the word-internal colons in their writing system.

Ralph, if he's still around, might be interested to learn that the inventor of this orthographical quirk was Brent Galloway, a former linguistics professor of mine from the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. In 1975 Brent developed the writing system for the Só:lō's language, Upriver Halkomelem, and eventually published its first grammar and dictionary. The colon was his way of marking long vowels, an idea he probably borrowed from the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Brent would have been delighted to learn that his work was discussed in Word Ways – unfortunately, I never got the chance to tell him, as he passed away this last August, only a few hours before I was about to pay him a surprise visit."